

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 15 and 16 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claim 8 to read, as follows.

Claims 1 through 7. **(Canceled)**

8. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus comprising:

a rotatable ~~movable~~ image bearing member on which an electrostatic image is to be formed;

a first developer carrying member, which forms a first developing area in cooperation with said image bearing member, for carrying a developer;

a first regulating member, disposed on an end in ~~[[of]]~~ a longitudinal direction of said first developer carrying member, for regulating a gap between said image bearing member and said first developer carrying member with said first regulating member abutting against said image bearing member;

a second developer carrying member, which forms a second developing area downstream of the first developing area in a movement direction of a surface of said image bearing member, for carrying a developer; and

a second regulating member, disposed on an end in ~~[[of]]~~ a longitudinal direction of said second developer carrying member on a side on which said first regulating member is disposed, for regulating a gap between said image bearing member and said second

developer carrying member with said second regulating member abutting against said image bearing member,

wherein said second regulating member abuts against an area of said image bearing member different from an ~~abutment~~ area against which ~~[[of]]~~ said first regulating member abuts in a rotational axial ~~width direction orthogonal to the movement~~ direction of a ~~[[the]]~~ surface of said image bearing member.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising a developer container, which contains a developer, and which has said first developer carrying member disposed in an opening portion opposite to said image bearing member,

wherein said second developer carrying member is disposed in said opening portion with a gap between said first developer carrying member and said second developer carrying member, and carries the developer a layer thickness of which is restricted by the gap.

11. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein a rotation direction of said first developer carrying member is the same as a rotation direction of said second developer carrying member.

12. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein in the first developing area, a movement direction of a surface of said first developer carrying member is the same as the movement direction of the surface of said image bearing member, and in the second developing area, a movement direction of a surface of said second developer carrying member is the same as the movement direction of the surface of said image bearing member.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein in the first developing area, a peripheral speed of said first developer carrying member is higher than a peripheral speed of said image bearing member, and

wherein in the second developing area, a peripheral speed of said second developer carrying member is higher than the peripheral speed of said image bearing member.

Claims 14 through 17. **(Canceled)**